

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A method for improving the degradation by an exogenous enzyme of the neutral detergent fiber in an animal feed, comprising the step of adding to an animal feed containing ~~an~~the exogenous enzyme a surfactant selected from the group consisting of ~~lysophospholipids~~lecithins that have been enzymatically enriched in the amounts of lysophospholipids to contain at least 5% by weight of lysophospholipids to the amount of lysophospholipids plus phospholipids.

2. (Currently amended) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said exogenous enzyme has enzyme activity selected from the group consisting of α -amylase, α -galactosidase, β -glucanase, ~~cellulose~~cellulase, lipase, protease and xylanase activities.

3. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said animal feed includes from between about 10 weight percent to about 55 weight percent of a small cereal grain.

4. (Previously amended) A method as defined in claim 3, wherein said small cereal grain is selected from the group consisting of wheat and barley.

5. (Previously amended) A method as defined in claim 4, wherein said enzyme is added to said animal feed in an amount to provide exogenous xylanase activity of between about 100 and about 50,000 units per kilogram of said animal feed.

6. (Previously amended) A method as defined in claim 5, wherein said surfactant is included in an amount that is between about 0.025 and about 0.200 grams/kilogram of the animal feed.

7. (Previously amended) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said surfactant is included in an amount that comprises between about 0.025 and about 0.200 grams/kilogram of the animal feed.

8. (Withdrawn) An animal feed supplement comprising:
a source of at least one exogenous enzyme having enzyme activity selected from the group consisting of α -amylase, α -galactosidase, β -glucanase, cellulase, lipase, protease and xylanase activities; and
a surfactant selected from the group consisting of lysolecithins.
9. (Withdrawn) An animal feed supplement as defined in claim 8, wherein said surfactant comprises at least about 25 percent and up to 100 percent lysolecithin.
10. (Newly added) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the degradation of neutral detergent fiber is increased by at least at least about 50% over neutral detergent fiber degradation by the exogenous enzyme alone.
11. (Newly added) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the exogenous enzyme is selected from the group consisting of α -amylase, α -galactosidase, β -glucanase, cellulase, lipase and xylanase activities and further improving the degradation of neutral detergent fiber by the addition of an exogenous protease.
12. (Newly added) A method as defined in claim 11, wherein the protease is added in an amount between about 0.1% and about 1% by weight of the exogenous enzyme and surfactant.
13. (Newly added) A method of reducing the amount of exogenous enzyme required to achieve a preselected level of degradation of neutral detergent fiber in an animal feed, comprising the step of adding to the animal feed an exogenous enzyme selected from the group consisting of α -amylase, α -galactosidase, β -glucanase, cellulase, lipase and xylanase; a protease; and a surfactant selected from the group consisting of lecithins that have been enzymatically enriched in the amounts of lysophospholipids to contain at least 5% by weight of lysophospholipids to the amount of lysophospholipids and phospholipids, and wherein the amount of the exogenous enzyme added is reduced by up to about 50% without a reduction in degradation of neutral detergent fiber.